GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:729
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
THYROID DISEASE
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians suffer from bloated thyroid due to iodine deficiency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether consumption of iodized salt has any effect in reducing iodine deficiency;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide iodized salt to the poorer sections in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) As per surveys conducted by Director General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, Health Institutes and State Health Directorates, covering all States/UTs, 263 districts out of 324 districts surveyed are endemic to Iodine Deficiency Disorders including goiter where the prevalence is more than 10%. The visible goiter has reduced significantly in the entire country as a result of consumption of iodated salt under centrally assisted National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP).

(e) In order to provide iodated salt to the weaker sections in the country several States/UTs have included iodated salt under Public Distribution System as an essential item.